AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 12 and 16 as set forth below.

Claim 13 is cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer.

The current listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method of detecting a cell proliferative disorder ~~methylation of a p16 gene~~, comprising:

a) contacting a sample comprising ribonucleic acid molecules,

with oligonucleotide primers that permit extension of a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide sequence encoding exon 1 of the p16 gene and a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide sequence encoding exon 2 of the p16 gene, under conditions suitable for primer extension of the complementary sequences;

b) amplifying the resulting extension products of step (a) comprising contacting the extension products with a sense oligonucleotide which binds within and extends sequences from a 5' ALT gene; and

c) determining the presence of an amplification product that encodes a truncated p16 gene product lacking exon 1, comprising detecting a first amplification product ~~comprising~~ containing exon 2 of the p16 gene in the absence of identifying a second amplification product ~~comprising~~ containing exon 1 of the p16 gene, wherein ~~hypermethylation of a 5' CpG island in the first exon of the p16 gene is associated with~~ the presence of the truncated p16 gene product is associated with a cell proliferative disorder~~, thereby detecting methylation of the p16 gene~~.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the sample comprises a sample of a human.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the sample comprises a biological fluid, cells, or a tissue.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12[[3]], wherein the truncated p16 gene product ~~when the sample is contacted with the agent and the second amplification product is detected, methylation of the p16 gene~~ is indicative of a neoplasm.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the neoplasm is head and neck cancer, breast cancer, renal cancer, colon cancer, or prostate cancer.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the sample nucleic acid molecules comprise RNA.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the amplification reaction comprises reverse transcription and polymerase chain reaction.

20. (Withdrawn) A kit, comprising oligonucleotide primers that permit amplification of a polynucleotide comprising exon 1 of a p16 gene and exon 2 of the p16 gene.

21. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 20, comprising a first forward primer that permits amplification of exon 1 of the p16 gene, a second forward primer that permits amplification of exon 2 of the p16 gene, and at least one reverse primer.

22. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 21, comprising one reverse primer, which permits amplification of exon 1 of the 16 gene and exon 2 of the p16 gene.

23. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 21, comprising a first reverse primer that permits amplification of exon 1 of the p16 gene and a second reverse primer that permits amplification of exon 2 of the p16 gene.

24. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 20, wherein the oligonucleotide primers that permit amplification of a polynucleotide comprising exon 2 of the p16 gene further permit amplification of a polynucleotide comprising 5'ALT.